



Newsletter

Summer 2025

Holiday Schedule

If your pickup day falls on a weekday on or after any of the holidays listed below, your pickup will be delayed by one day during that week. Friday collections will take place on Saturday.

The following holidays are observed by Western Disposal:

Independence Day — July 4, 2025

Labor Day — Sept. 1, 2025

Thanksgiving Day — Nov. 27, 2025

Christmas Day — Dec. 25, 2025

New Year's Day — Jan. 1, 2026

Memorial Day — May 25, 2026

For holidays not listed above, your residential collection service will not be affected. For questions give us a call at 303-444-2037 or refer to your collection calendar.

Harnessing Sun and Soil: Agrivoltaic Innovation at Jack's Solar Garden

Heading to Longmont on North 95th St, you might notice Jack's Solar Garden to the east. This community solar initiative, launched in 2020, boasts over 3,000 elevated solar panels that produce enough clean energy to power 300 homes. It's an important community resource for clean local energy, but the real story lies in what you can't see from a quick drive-by.

Jack's Solar Garden, a family-owned social enterprise, is dedicated to enhancing the community through the innovative use of its farm.

Through collaboration with the research community, including the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Colorado State University, and the University of Arizona, they have been hard at work advancing agrivoltaics, the practice of coupling solar panels with agriculture. Five years of dedicated, groundbreaking research have put Jack's on the map as the nation's premier site for agrivoltaics.



The land required for solar development is expected to increase 20- 40X by 2050, and most of these sites will be on agricultural land. Conventional solar development removes this land from productivity, but land stewardship through agrivoltaics accommodates agricultural land use along with solar energy generation, creating a shady microclimate beneath the panels, with mutually beneficial attributes:

- As ambient temperature rises, many plants shut down their photosynthetic activity; in the shade, they continue this

(continued on page 3)



Bear Spray and Propane Canisters Pose Hazards at Boulder County Recycling Center

The Boulder County Recycling Center frequently receives bear spray and propane canisters, which are not recyclable in your single-stream recycling bins. These items pose a fire hazard in recycling trucks and at the center and can damage machinery not designed for scrap metal. When crushed in trucks and machines, these containers become even harder to recycle. Instead, bear spray and one-pound propane canisters should be taken to the Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility (HMMF). This service is free for residents of Boulder County, Broomfield County, and the Town of Erie. For location and hours, visit boco.org/HMMF.

Guardians of Nature: Combating Noxious Weeds



Myrtle Spurge. Skeletonweed. Starthistle. Houndstongue. These names might sound like ingredients for a witch's brew, but they are just a few of the many plants designated as noxious in Colorado.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture has designated specific plants as noxious because they threaten natural and agricultural ecosystems. Noxious weeds are non-native plants that have an advantage over native species due to the absence of insects, diseases, and animals that normally control them. By disrupting native vegetation, they eventually dominate and destroy biodiversity and native ecosystems. Removing and controlling these weeds is essential to protect drinking water supplies, agricultural crops, pasture lands, and native habitats.

Some of these plants, classified as List A, are required by state and local regulations to be eradicated. Some List A species in Boulder County include diffuse and spotted knapweed, myrtle spurge, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, and Mediterranean sage. Several varieties of thistle are targeted for control through containment and suppression, focusing on eradicating smaller populations to prevent their spread. Boulder County's noxious weed list identifies 22 species in total.

For photos and descriptions, visit bit.ly/42Oji08

It's important to be mindful when managing and disposing of noxious weeds on your property. Although the composting process kills weed seeds due to high temperatures, seeds and vegetative propagules (such as root fragments) can still spread during transportation or grinding. Therefore, the Colorado Department of Agriculture recommends placing noxious weeds in plastic bags and disposing of them in the trash, not in your compost bin or at yard waste collection facilities. This helps ensure that eradication efforts do not inadvertently allow the weeds to spread.

Check out this inspiring video of Boulder County landscapes transformed through invasive plant management: bit.ly/4jGejqd

Colorado Household Medication and Sharps Takeback Program



The Colorado Household Medication and Sharps Takeback program is an essential resource for safely managing expired, unwanted, or unused over the counter and prescription medicines, which can pose risks to people, animals, and the environment if not disposed of properly.

Overseen by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE), the program features a network

of collection receptacles at participating pharmacies, clinics, and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

For takeback locations, go to bit.ly/4IXYYCR

If unable to access a takeback location, most medications can be put in your household trash*. Before doing so, the Federal Drug Administration recommends removing the medicine from its original container and mixing it with something undesirable, such as mud, cat litter, or coffee grounds. This makes the mixture less appealing to people, pets, and wildlife. Put the mix in something that can be closed, such as a Ziplock bag, and dispose of it in the trash.

**For more information, visit the Federal Drug Administration: bit.ly/4iMJEGz*

Sharps

Boulder County's Hazardous Materials Management Facility is currently accepting sharps from Boulder County, the City and County of Broomfield, and the Town of Erie residents free of charge. Loose sharps are not accepted.

For container instructions and additional locations, visit bit.ly/42CzCCX

Agrivoltaic Innovation at Jack's Solar Garden

(continued from page 1)

activity throughout the day, improving plant health and vigor.

- The microclimate cools the panels, creating greater efficiency and higher output, increasing clean energy production.
- Cooler temperatures slow evaporation from the soil, reducing the need for supplemental irrigation.
- Livestock, like sheep and cows, can take refuge in the shade of solar panels during the hottest days of the year while the grasses they eat grow better under the panels compared to outside the solar array during drier years.

Jack's is now the base for the Colorado Agrivoltaic Learning Center, a non-profit established to showcase the research, opportunities, and development of land stewardship within solar arrays.

Growing Food, Farmers and Community

Crops are cultivated at Jack's Solar Garden by Sprout City Farms (a nonprofit farming organization based in Denver), and food production is funneled back to the local community through their CSA program, farmers' markets, and food bank donations. Seasoned and aspiring farmers benefit from and participate in the ongoing agrivoltaic research on site, with the added perk of spending most of their work hours in the shade.

Education and engaging the community are core values, and there is always something happening at Jack's through the Colorado Agrivoltaic Learning Center. Come for a tour, take in an art exhibit, participate in a seminar, explore pollinator habitats, enjoy a farm-to-table meal, or even get married under the solar panels.

As a Jack's Solar Garden subscriber, Western is proud to support local energy production and agricultural innovation.

To learn more, visit jackssolargarden.com and coagrivoltaic.org

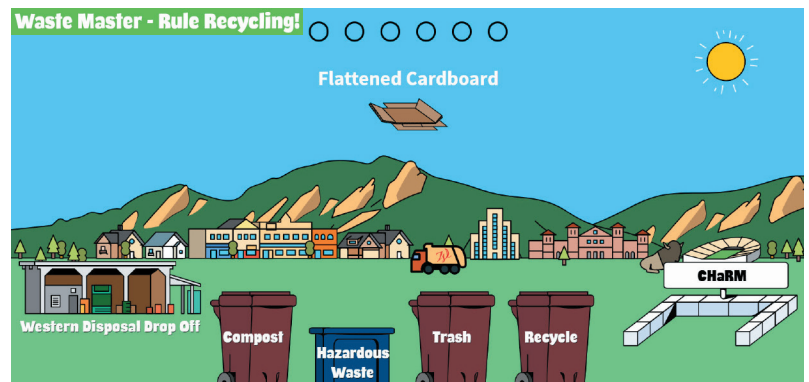


They Deserve a Happily Ever After!

If your bear-resistant cart needs repair or replacement, please call customer service at 303-444-2037 or email contact@westerndisposal.com.

We will accommodate your request by the next business day.

Summer Fun for All Ages – Play Our Waste Sorting Game!



Test your recycling and composting know-how with the Waste Master sorting game. Move through five skill levels, build a custom playground, and receive a Certificate of Mastery. Go to westerndisposal.com and click [Play Our Sorting Game!](#) at the upper right of your screen.

NOT RECYCLABLE IN SINGLE-STREAM CURBSIDE RECYCLING BIN NO RECICLABLE EN EL BOTE DE RECICLAJE DE FLUJO ÚNICO



Materials Management Drop-off Center

2051 63rd Street
Hours of Operation:
Monday – Saturday
7 am – 5 pm
Phone: 303-444-5794

Win One Month Free Trash Service

Congratulations! If your name is listed below, you are the lucky winner of one FREE month of trash service!

Call our Customer Service Department at 303-444-2037 to receive credit on your account.

- Jeff Katzman
- Bob Ternes
- Alex Ballas

Paperless Billing

Sign up for paperless billing and receive your newsletter electronically!

Visit westerndisposal.com and sign in or sign up under "Pay My Bill".

Let Western Do the Heavy Lifting!

Do you have an oversized item such as a hot tub, pool table, riding mower, or piano that you need to dispose of? Don't let the size and weight hold you back! If the item is beyond repair, or selling or donating isn't an option. Western is here to help. You get it to the curb, and we'll do the rest. Call us today and let us do the heavy lifting for you!

Collection Times May Vary!

Even if your collection is typically later in the day, Western asks residential customers to have their carts at the curb by 7 AM on collection day. Road construction, route adjustments, weather, holidays, and traffic can all affect actual collection times.

We appreciate your cooperation!



**Locally Owned and Operated
Since 1970**

5880 Butte Mill Rd. • P.O. Box 9100
 Boulder, Colorado 80301

Phone: (303) 444-2037

contact@westerndisposal.com
westerndisposal.com